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30 March 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Material in Latest Issue of CORONET

1. The April 1965 issue of CORONET Magazine contains two articles of interest to the Agency:

- a. "Let's Quit Knocking the CIA" by "The Editors"
- b. "Why the Truth About Vietnam Cannot Get Into Print" by David Halberstam

2. The article by the editors has been distributed separately. Attached to this memo are reproductions of the contents page, which lists the editors of the magazine, and of the cover, which shows how both articles are highlighted.

3. The Halberstam article is identified in a footnote as having been "reprinted from the January 1965 issue of COMMENTARY, from the book 'The Making of a Quagmire' by David Halberstam," to be published shortly by Random House. The text of the COMMENTARY version was distributed several weeks ago.

4. As carried in CORONET the Halberstam article is profusely illustrated with photos of Madame Nhu, flaming monks, and troops in action. It includes these passages:

a. "From the very beginning, then, I could see that the relation between the American mission and the American press in Vietnam was quite different from that which existed anywhere else in the world. Although the embassy occasionally chided the Ngo government for its attacks on the press, such high officials as Ambassador Nolting, General Paul Donald Harkins and CIA chief [redacted] were basically more sympathetic to the government viewpoint. They felt we were inaccurate and biased; they thought the war was being won, and they longed for control over us."

b. "Nolting's job was difficult, but it was made even more difficult by the almost psychotic preoccupation of Diem and his family with the Western press - the one element operating in Saigon other than the Viet